Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The following listing provides the amended claims with deleted material crossed out and new material underlined to show the changes made.

1-17 (Cancel).

18. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit comprising:

a plurality of metal layers;

~~at least one~~ a metal layer in said plurality of metal layers comprising first and second sections;

~~the~~ said first section having a first preferred direction and at least one thousand conductors traversing along ~~the~~ said first preferred direction, wherein ~~a~~ said first preferred direction, within ~~a~~ said first section, defines ~~a~~ said first preferred direction, relative to ~~the~~ boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in ~~the~~ said first section;

~~a~~ said second section having a second diagonal preferred direction different from the first preferred direction and at least one thousand conductors traversing along the second preferred direction, wherein said second preferred direction, within said second section, defines said second preferred direction, relative to boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in said second section;

wherein the first and second directions are neither parallel nor orthogonal to each other.

19. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, wherein the first preferred direction comprises a diagonal direction.

20. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 19, wherein the first preferred direction is an octalinear direction and the second preferred direction is an hexalinear direction.

21. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an octalinear direction.

22. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an hexalinear direction.

23. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a third section having a third diagonal preferred direction.

24. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a third section having a third Manhattan preferred direction.

25. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit comprising:

a plurality of metal layers;

~~at least one~~ a metal layer in said plurality of metal layers comprising first and second sections;

~~the~~ said first section comprising a plurality of conductors and having a first preferred direction, wherein ~~a~~ said first preferred direction, within ~~a~~ said first section, defines ~~a~~ said first preferred direction, relative to ~~the~~ boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in ~~the~~ said first section;

~~a~~ said second section comprising a plurality of conductors and having a second diagonal preferred direction different from the first preferred direction, wherein said second preferred direction, within said second section, defines said second preferred direction, relative to

boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in said second section, said second section abutting the first section; and

a set of conductors traverse both the first and second sections and a plurality of conductors in the set traverse along the first preferred direction in the first section and traverse along the second preferred direction in the second section;

wherein the first and second directions are neither parallel nor orthogonal to each other.

26. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, wherein the first preferred direction comprises a diagonal direction.

27. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 26, wherein the first preferred direction is an octalinear direction and the second preferred direction is an hexalinear direction.

28. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an octalinear direction.

29. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an hexalinear direction.

30. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, further comprising a third section having a third diagonal preferred direction.

31. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, further comprising a third section having a third Manhattan preferred direction.